BOLT Scheme

316. SHRI YEERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Build-Operate-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) proposals under consideration by Visakhapatnam Port Trust;

(b) whether any BOLT proposals for privatisation of some functions of V.P.T. are pending for approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Visakhapatnam Port Trust has proposed construction of five additional berths on Build-Operate-Transfer (B.O.T.) basis, by inviting global tenders. Out of these five berths, four will be in the Inner Harbour And one will be in the Outer Harbour which are likely to cost about Rs. 155 crores. The reaction of the Government to the proposals submitted by Visakhapatnam Port Trust is positive subject to the suitability of the proposals/offers.

Captivation of Indian Fishermen by India's Neighbouring Countries

317. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present number of Indian fishermen and their boats which are in the custody of each of the neighbouring countries, *viz*, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh;

(b) how many of them are Gujarat and Maharashtra coastal areas; and since when they are in their custody;

(c) what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to secure the release and repatriation of these fishermen and their boats; and

(d) how many of them were released and repatriated to India during the year 1994 and so far in 1995?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) According to the available information, at present there are 191 Indian fishermen and 31 fishing boats in the custody of Pakistan; 2 Indian fishermen and no fishing boats in the custody of Sri Lanka; and 51 fishing boats are in the custody of Bangladesh. There are no Indian fishermen in custody in Bangladesh.

(b) Pakistan does not furnish detailed information on Indian prisoners lodged in Pakistani jails. However, as per information furnished by Indian Fishermen associations, most of the fishermen in custody in Pakistan are from Gujarat and were apprehended during 1994 and 1995. The two fishermen in custody in Sri Lanka are not from Maharashtra or Gujarat.

(c) and (d) As a result of sustained efforts Government secured the release and repatriation of Indian fishermen from jails in neighbouring countries.

83 and 27 fishermen were released and repatriated from Pakistan in 1994 and 1995 respectively; 2 fishermen were released and repatriated from Sri Lanka in 1995; and 281 and 134 fishermen were released and repatriated from Bangladesh in 1994 and 1995 respectively.

Government have taken up with the Governments of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, all instances of the release of Indian fishermen and their boats. Our efforts continue.

Reduction in the Measurement of Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary

318. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that area under the sanctuary of Narayan Sarovar known